

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A substantially pure polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence at least 99% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.
2. (Original) A substantially pure polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.
3. (Original) A substantially pure polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, with up to 4 conservative amino acid substitutions.
4. (Original) An isolated nucleic acid encoding the polypeptide of claim 1.
5. (Original) An isolated nucleic acid encoding the polypeptide of claim 2.
6. (Original) An isolated nucleic acid encoding the polypeptide of claim 3.
7. (Original) An isolated nucleic acid comprising SEQ ID NO:1.
8. (Original) A vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 4.
9. (Original) A vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 5.

10. (Original) A vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 6.
11. (Original) A vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 7.
12. (Original) A cultured host cell comprising the nucleic acid of claim 4.
13. (Original) A cultured host cell comprising the nucleic acid of claim 5.
14. (Original) A cultured host cell comprising the nucleic acid of claim 6.
15. (Original) A cultured host cell comprising the nucleic acid of claim 7.
16. (Original) A method of producing a polypeptide, the method comprising culturing the cultured host cell of claim 12 in a culture, expressing the polypeptide in the cultured host cell, and isolating the polypeptide from the culture.
17. (Original) A method of detecting exposure of a fish to nervous necrosis virus, the method comprising
 - providing a serum sample from a fish;
 - contacting the serum sample to a substrate coated with the polypeptide of claim 1; and
 - determining whether antibodies in the serum sample specifically bind to the polypeptide on the substrate, wherein antibodies specifically binding to the polypeptide on the substrate indicates that the fish has been exposed to the nervous necrosis virus.
18. (Currently Amended) A method of eliciting an antibody response to a nervous necrosis virus in an animal, the method comprising administering to an animal ~~the polypeptide of claim 1~~ a substantially pure polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence at least 99% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 in an amount sufficient to elicit an antibody response to the nervous necrosis virus.

19. (Original) A method of eliciting an antibody response to a nervous necrosis virus in an animal, the method comprising administering to an animal a nucleic acid encoding the polypeptide of claim 1 in an amount sufficient to elicit an antibody response to the nervous necrosis virus.

20. (New) A method of eliciting an antibody response to a nervous necrosis virus in an animal, the method comprising administering to an animal a substantially pure polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 in an amount sufficient to elicit an antibody response to the nervous necrosis virus.

21. (New) A method of eliciting an antibody response to a nervous necrosis virus in an animal, the method comprising administering to an animal a substantially pure polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, with up to 4 conservative amino acid substitutions, in an amount sufficient to elicit an antibody response to the nervous necrosis virus.

22. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the animal is a fish.

23. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein the animal is a fish.

24. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the animal is a fish.

25. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein the fish is a grouper.

26. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the fish is a grouper.

27. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein the fish is a grouper.

28. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the polypeptide is recombinant.

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29. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein the polypeptide is recombinant.

30. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the polypeptide is recombinant.